Rural Banks Sponsored by United Bank of India

*218. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of refinance extended by United Bank of India yearwise and Rural Bankwise in the last three years to the Rural Banks sponsored by United Bank of India; and

(b) what action has been taken by Government against the bank for its failure to discharge statutory obligation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) As per refinance formula prescribed for Regional Rural Bank (RRBs), sponsor banks are to provide matching refinance to the extent of 20 per cent of the eligible loans outstanding under the short-term and medium-term credit limits. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) considers the eligibility for refinance by RRBs on the basis of recovery performance of individual RRBs and also no default in payment of instalments of refinance. The United Bank of India has sponsored 11 RRBs. Out of this it did not extend refinance during 1992-93 to any of the banks as they were defaulters. However, during 1993-94 and 1994-95 refinance to the extent of Rs. 164.45 lakhs and Rs. 42.27 lakhs were extended to Gaur Gramin Bank and Nadia Gramin Bank respectively. As such there has been no violation by United Bank of India (UBI) of guidelines of NABARD for refinance for RRBs. However, NABARD which monitors the functioning of the RRBs has stated that it has requested UBI to explore the possibility of opening up a line of refinance on case-by-case basis to such RRBs on their submission of a time bound programme of clearance of defaults.

Modernisation Scheme for NTC

*219. SHRI G.G. SWELL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether modernisation scheme of NTC involving Rs. 2000 crores investment has not been cleared by Government so far; and

(b) the reasons for which trade Unions in NTC have given call for a strike?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The Textile Research Associations had prepared a plan for modernisation of 79 mills at an investment of Rs. 2005.72 crores. The modernisation plan inter-alia envisages restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable mills. The Labour Ministry's Special Tripartite Committee on the NTC had recommended that the NTC mills as well as its taken over mills can be made viable by modernisation as proposed by the Textile Research Associations.

A Turn Around Plan for the NTC is under consideration in the Government. Since the cases of 8 subsidiaries of NTC stand referred to the BIFR, any scheme that may finally emerge would also require the concurrence of the BIFR before implementation.

(b) No strike call has been given by the Trade Unions in NTC.

Cash award to staff of Indian Airlines

*220. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has announced a cash award of Rs. 1000/- to over 500 employees of the Engineering Department for their outstanding contribution to increased productivity;

(b) if so, the details thereof with objectives;

(c) whether staff of commercial and office machinery have also contributed in this increased productivity;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to provide cash award to staff of those Departments also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cash award has been announced as a token of appreciation for improving productivity through a considerable reduction of grounding time for major maintenance checks on A-320 aircraft carried out by the Engineering Department of Northern Region of Indian Airlines. Reduction of grounding period would load to better availability of aircraft and savings for the Airlines. 543 personnel from Engineering Department were covered under this award.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) The award was an incentive for higher productivity in Engineering Department. There are no grounds to pay this award to employees of other Departments.

Employment of foreign nationals

221. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether air taxi operators in India can employ foreign nationals despite availability of such skills/trades in India;

(b) if so, whether it is a requirement for such foreign nationals to obtain employment visa/ work permits before taking up jobs in India;

(c) if so, how many such job permits have been issued to foreigners in the past three years to work in civil aviation sector; and

(d) whether reciprocally an equal number of Indians were given permits in those countries for taking up employment in Civil Aviation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the last 3 years 167 engineers of foreign nationality have been permitted to work on Indian registered aircraft operated by various Private Operators. Similarly, 154 flight crew licences of foreign pilots have been validated for various short periods.

(d) The Government have no information on this aspect.

Grant of special leave to Air India employees

2123. SHRI A. NALLASIVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many employees of Air India owing allegiance to Air India employees guild have been granted special leave/ special casual leave during 1993 and 1994;

(b) the details of each employees availing such leave during the above period with reasons for such leave;

(c) the details for office bearers of the guild and other employees owing allegiance to the guild availing such leave;

(d) who are the authorities that are empowered to grant such leave and the authorities who have granted each of the above leave; and

(e) whether any employee in similar categories but not belonging to guild have been given such leave with details of number of employees etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) 132 Air India employees owing allegiance to the Air India Employees Guild, including office bearers, were sanctioned special leave during 1993 and 1994. Detailed information except for Madras station is annexed as a statement (*see* below).

(d) Departmental Heads who are the competent authority to grant such leave, have delegated the powers, to their subordinate officers.

(e) No, Sir. This facility is extended only to the members of the recognised unions.